

## STRAIGHT TALK

As an example of the methods employed by H. C. James, plumbing inspector, and the Bureau of Mechanical Inspection in general, the communications below speak for themselves. A notice was recently served on one of the best known plumbing firms here and one whose members do not abide by the trade restraining laws of the Master Plumbers and who in consequence are not affiliated with them. It reads as follows:

### Notice.

"On and after the first day of May, 1915, all galvanized wrought iron pipe and fittings will be prohibited for use as waste pipes.

(Signed) H. C. JAMES.

Following the protests regarding this notice, a letter was received by the firm signed by George W. Snow, chief of the Bureau of Mechanical Inspection of the city in which he said:

"This is to advise you that no change has been made in the city plumbing ordinances prohibiting the use of Galvanized wrought iron pipe, and the circular letter dated April 23, 1915, sent out by Mr. James, plumbing inspector, should not be so taken.

"Many requests have come to this office urging that Galvanized wrought iron pipe be prohibited for use as drainage pipe, and the letter mentioned above sent out by Mr. James, plumbing inspector, although not apparently so worded, was intended to invite opinions on this question rather than as a letter prohibiting its use.

"We are therefore requesting that you give your views in writing, as to whether a change in the city ordinance with respect to Galvanized iron pipe is advisable and why."

The firm to whom the communications were addressed stated their objections to such a change in no uncertain terms, the burden of their argument being that C. I. Soil pipe and lead pipe are not practical and are out of date for modern up-to-date buildings where the construction will not permit of the installation of the old style system of plumbing.

In the past thirty years, plumbing has been revolutionized like everything else, and the passing and enforcing of such an ordinance would be a block on the progress of science and sanitation which it has taken years of study and mechanical ability to perfect. The galvanized system is in the Federal building, in the modern office building of the David Eccles Estate in Ogden, and in a number of other fine buildings both in Salt Lake and Ogden, and has been thoroughly satisfactory. Whether or not we are discussing the merits of different systems, it is difficult to understand why the plumbing inspector should make a direct order before such an ordinance had been passed, to be followed by an apology by his superiors after the bluff was made.

It is in direct accord, however, with the policy of the administration of city affairs in general, which would be a joke if the results of the work of one or two of the smoothest commissioners were not so serious. The tricks, little and big which are called to one's attention almost every day, form the best argument as to why those who would like to see the city decently run with no suspicion of petty intrigue or graft should go to the primaries when the time comes this year, and if every thinking citizen does his duty, there will be no reason for complaint during the next administration. The present one is a disgrace, and even if there are one or two good commissioners, they are helpless against the barriers always placed in their way by the other three.

The matter of awarding a recent contract in which the contractor asked if the material might be changed after his bid was accepted, and the well remembered methods employed in the re-

construction of the Y. M. C. A. building, with pyramiding outlays of money for which no one in particular seemed to be responsible are only one or two of the instances of the way the affairs of the city are being conducted, and the run the public is getting for its money.

Returning to the matter of changes in the plumbing ordinances, if there is any cause for changes in an ordinance by which the city will be benefitted, well and good, but when men have spent the greater part of their lives in progressing, there is no reason why their business should be disrupted and disorganized on account of a personal whim of one seeking to use city ordinances to gain a point.

In the meantime there are those who would like to know by what authority this man James issues an unauthorized order on anyone.

If a lot of four-flushers ridling around in their new motor cars would pay their debts, lots of other people struggling to get even with the world might have an opportunity.

True to the promise made by the gentlemen to the northward, the sign directing automobile tourists over the Lincoln Highway to Salt Lake which has been standing on the road near Echo, was destroyed early in the week, and unless another sign is erected or some means taken to inform tourists of the very dangerous condition of the road going into Ogden, the gentlemen who saw to it that the sign was removed will be more or less responsible for probable accidents during the travel season. County Attorney Seely of Summit county is quoted as saying that it is his intention to begin action against the person or persons who destroyed the sign directing people to this city.

At their meeting this week, the members of the Rotary club took no action in the matter, standing on their dignity after considering from all angles the work of the Ogdenites. The fact that neither this city nor any organization in it had anything to do with the erection of the sign shows how little it takes for the old petty jealousy to break out in a new place in Ogden. And

that just at a time when we were under the impression that all were working together.

When the Ogden children took their dolls and dishes and went home, they evidently couldn't find any I. W. W.'s to do the dirty work, for the sign was chopped down instead of dynamited.

When whose political memory runs back twenty years are finding a close and curious parallel between the political conditions of 1895 and those of 1915. The country then had a Democratic administration—Cleveland's. The country today has a Democratic administration—Wilson's. The country then had a Democratic tariff law—the Wilson-Gorman bill. The country today has a Democratic tariff law—the Underwood-Simmons bill. Then, as now, there was widespread, unemployment and deep discontent all over the land. Then, as now, the country had just experienced sweeping Republican victories in the elections of the previous "off year." Then, as now, the municipal elections of the springtime showed the continued sweep of Republican ascendancy. Then, as now, the country was looking forward with eagerness to its approaching relief from Democratic administration and to the restoration of the Republican party to power. The political indications of 1895 found their fulfillment in the election of McKinley in 1896. The political indications of 1915 will find their fulfillment in the election of another Republican president in 1916.

In the Lusitania massacre, England is to blame, the Cunard people are to blame, America is to blame, and certain blame may be placed in various quarters, but it was deliberate murder on the part of Germany just the same.

A seedy-looking man with a consuming thirst found himself in that embarrassing financial condition which precluded the possibility of the purchase of a drink. He cudgled his brain and finally hit on a scheme. Rushing into a drug store, he called out excitedly: "A lady just fainted outside. Have you got any whisky?" "Why, yes, here's some," said the sympathetic clerk, pouring out a liberal quantity. "Ah, thanks," as he gulped it down; "it always upsets me to see a lady faint."

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## The Newhouse Hotel

F. W. Paget, Manager